

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 IO-14 SS-20 L-03 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 070225Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2111

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS DACCA 0610

BEIRUT FOR DWOR, CIVAIRATT

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, BG

SUBJECT: DACCA AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

REF : HONG KONG 510 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NEW KURMITOLA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NORTH OF DACCA ONLY PARTIALLY COMPLETED PRIOR BD LIBERATION. BDG'S NEW 5-YEAR PLAN EARMARKS FUNDS TO RECONSTRUCT AND REHABILITATE CIVIL AVIATION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING COMPLETION KURMITOLA. DG CIVIL AVIATION APPARENTLY BELIEVES IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR A CONSORTIUM FOREIGN FIRMS TO BE FORMED TO DO JOB. FRENCH AND DUTCH HAVE ALREADY INDICATED SOME INTEREST. AUSTRALIA'S QANTAS MAY TEST KURMITOLA'S ALMOST COMPLETED RUNWAY TO SEE IF IT CAN HANDLE A 747. EMBASSY THINKS VISITS BY REPS US FIRMS IN AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION FIELDS MIGHT BE FRUITFUL. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL INDICATED US ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING FIRMS WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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REGIONAL OFFICES IN HONG KONG INTERESTED IN ANY DETAILS AVAILABLE

ABOUT POSSIBLE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR DACCA AIRPORT IN 1975.
REGRET DELAY IN RESPONSE, BUT MUCH OF INFO PROVIDED BELOW ONLY
RECENTLY AVAILABLE.

2. ACCORDING NEW ICAO PROJECT MANAGER, J. FINDLAY, WORK ON
NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT KURMITOLA, FEW MILES NORTH OF PRE-
SENT DACCA AIRPORT, WAS STARTED PRIOR BANGLADESH LIBERATION WITH
LOCAL FINANCING. MAJOR PART OF RUNWAY, SOME TAXI WAYS AND MOST
OF TERMINAL BUILDING SHELL COMPLETED PRIOR 12/71 LIBERATION.
LITTLE WORK EXCEPT BOMB DAMAGE REPAIR AND SOME EARTHQUAKE HAS BEEN
DONE SINCE THEN. INSTALLATION OF FURNISHINGS AND FITTINGS IN
TERMINAL MUST AWAIT COMPLETION SOME CEMENT WORK. OTHER CEMENT
WORK STILL TO BE DONE AT END OF MAIN RUNWAY.

3. CONTROL TOWER, WHICH WILL HOUSE COMPLETE OPERATIONAL SET UP
INCLUDING METEOROLOGICAL UNIT AND FLIGHT INFORMATION CENTER FOR ALL
BANGLADESH, NOT YET STARTED. FIRE EQUIPMENT BUILDING PARTIALLY
BUILT, BUT MAY BE MOVED TO ANOTHER LOCATION. AT LEAST TWO HANGERS
TO BE BUILT ALTHOUGH GROUND APRONS THEREFOR ALREADY IN PLACE.

4. SOME LIGHTING EQUIPMENT ON LOCATION BUT NOT INSTALLED. PART
OF THAT EQUIPMENT DIVERTED KARACHI DURING LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND
PROBABLY NOT RETRIEVABLE. SOURCE LIGHTING EQUIPMENT BELIEVED TO
BE SIEMENS OR OTHER WEST EUROPEAN.

5. DIRECTOR-GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION, MR. M.G.H. KHAN, REPORTEDLY
INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING FOREIGN FIRMS PARTICIPATE COMPLETION
PROJECT, BUT BELIEVES SCOPE OF WORK STILL SO LARGE THAT CONSORTIUM
OF COMPANIES SHOULD BE FORMED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A FRENCH TEAM HAS JUST SURVEYED SITUATION
AND IS PREPARING FEASIBILITY STUDY, FINANCED BY GOF GRANT OF
\$570,000 (SEE A-23 OF 3/20/73). DUTCH TEAM ALSO STUDYING
KURMITOLA PROJECT. GNL REPORTED COMMITTED \$837,000 TO PROJECT.

7. FYI ALSO UNDERSTAND KHAN WISHES DEMONSTRATE THAT KURMITOLA
COULD EVEN NOW FUNCTION AS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. MOREOVER, HAVE
HEARD THAT QANTAS MAY BRING IN 747 TO PROVE THAT KURMITOLA
FEASIBLE AS EMERGENCY AIRPORT FOR INTERCONTINENTAL FLIGHTS. END FYI.

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8. RECENTLY PUBLISHED 5-YEAR PLAN (1973-78) EARMARKS TAKAS 20
MILLION, HALF OF WHICH IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE, FOR "RECONSTRUCTION
AND REHABILITATION" OF NATION'S CIVIL AVIATION PROGRAMS. (\$1 EQUALS
ABOUT TAKA 8.5.) BELIEVE MOST OF THIS WILL GO FOR COMPLETING
KURMITOLA.

9. EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEEK TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFO
UPON REQUEST, OR TO ASSIST REPS INTERESTED US FIRMS WHO MAY

VISIT DACCA. EMBASSY BELIEVES SUCH VISITS WOULD LIKELY BE
WELCOMED BY BENGAL CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS AND MIGHT PROVE
FRUITFUL.
NEWBERRY

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